

March 4, 2015

Wilfredo Ortiz #267596  
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Good Morning Committee Members;

I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to present my testimony and thank you to my amazing wife for making this all possible I love you Rachael. My name is Wilfredo Ortiz Inmate number 267596 I am currently serving a 27 year sentence for felony murder. At the age 17, I was involved in a robbery the resulted in the death of Mr. Amend and the hurt and suffering of so many others. I am very sorry I take full responsibility for my actions, my ignorance and stupidity changed a lot of people's lives forever. No matter how good I do I cannot ever make up for my past, I think back on my thoughts to that horrible night when an innocent man lost his life for no reason what so ever I can't help but to feel the hurt I grew up on the streets and joined a gang where violence was the normal thing to see I became a product of my environment. I found myself at age 17 and in prison but since then I have accomplished so many things and I am proud to say I am not that 17 year old kid anymore. I do not want that night to define who I am today. I have taken advantage of just about every program that the Department of Corrections offers and focused on them every moment of my incarceration. Number one being completing my GED I remember receiving the diploma in my hands what a joy. Then came Hospice the Hospice program here in the prison infirmary I have spent a lot of time with dying men, men from all walks of life just sitting by their death beds and watching these men fighting for their lives. It has changed my life forever around forever how valuable life is this experience has allowed me to reflect on so many things on my past, my present and looking forward to my future my job as a Certified Nurse's Assistant was an amazing opportunity for me to give back to those in need of help. I wake up every morning proud to go to work at the Osborn infirmary. I work with wheelchair bound patients, dementia patient, total care patients. I see firsthand how cancer destroys people's lives since working as a CNA and a Hospice caregiver I have grown so much I have learned to appreciate the little things in life for years my dedication to the AVP Program and also the coordinator of this program at Osborn CI. Last but not least my loving wife and son after years of being my fiancée we were married on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 thanks to Minnie Gonzalez State Representative. God blessed me with my amazing wife and son who everyday love and support me and believes in me. We both know that the future holds challenges but we are ready to embrace what comes our way. I took this awful situation and turn it into a positive one. I learned my lesson I am not 17 years old child anymore I am mature 34yr old man. I have been rehabilitated and I have a life ahead of me. I forgave myself in order to change and grow I know if I was given the opportunity to be released, I will be a productive member of society and a law abiding citizen I have a job opportunity upon my release. Today I sit here with no opportunity to earn good behavior time and ineligible for parole. I believe in second chances I support legislation on Juvenile reform, please put politics away this year. I am a human being who made several mistakes but please take a look at who I am today. Thank you for allowing me to address the committee members for allowing to present my testimony today.

Sincerely,

Wilfredo Ortiz #267596